

Broadband and Device Access in K- 12

Presentation to Education
Interim

Utah State Board of Education
September 2020



Agenda

- Broadband access for K-12 families in Utah
- Device access for K-12 families in Utah
- Improvements in Digital Learning
- Next Steps



Broadband Access for K-12 families in Utah



- **Broadband is essential** for K-12 students to access remote learning
- Utah State Board of Education has issued a **K-12 Broadband/Hotspot Grant to provide up to \$6M** in awards to local districts and charter schools for the 2020-21 school year
- USBE has authorized funding to secure an **external evaluator** for the broadband grant to inform future state efforts

Local Broadband Solutions for K-12

- Partnering with providers for **one-year wired broadband service** to K-12 households
- Providing **hotspots and devices** to students
- Piloting **LTE chromebooks** to students
- Prioritizing **technology education for families:**
 - Ability to connect to the internet
 - Understanding digital citizenship
 - Guidance on how to connect and engage in digital learning resources from the LEA



Utah's Investment in Digital Teaching & Learning

- The **Legislature's \$20M ongoing investment** into the Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) Grant Program was a **critical component in preparing** Utah students, educators, and the school technology infrastructure for effective in-person and remote learning opportunities
- **All 41 Districts and ~40% of Charter Schools** are participating in the Digital Teaching and Learning Grant Program (many LEAs created new 5-year plans based on lessons learned in the spring of 2020)
- As of January 2020, over **740,000 devices** were available in Utah schools along with **thousands of prepared educators and leaders** with their educational technology endorsement

Device availability and deployment in Fall 2020

In a recent survey of 81 statewide educational technology leaders...

- **83%** have enough devices to meet the needs of all *in-person* learners
- **78%** have enough devices to meet the needs of all *remote* learners
- **40%** have experienced **delays** in deployment

Most common obstacles in deployment:

- **Supply chain** issues
- Complexity of **supporting in-person and remote learners** simultaneously
- **Workload** on educators and staff

Improvements in Digital Teaching & Learning

- Increased **devices and tools** available in K-12
- Increased educator **professional learning** opportunities in remote/blended learning from USBE and UETN
- Time to **streamline digital tools** and **prepare meaningful student learning opportunities** in Canvas and other tools
- We are **improving in digital teaching and learning** as a state, but have not reached the “finish line”



Next Steps

- ❑ Increased resources to create flexible digital learning solutions for K-12 students
- ❑ Additional personalized teacher professional learning opportunities and broadband support
- ❑ Sustainability for digital learning beyond CARES relief funding
- ❑ Creation of a state broadband plan that extends beyond K-12 to meet community needs



Questions?

Sarah Young, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Todd Call, Coordinator of Digital Teaching and Learning

Appendix A

Digital Teaching and Learning Details

Voices from the field

"I want to say that when our school was approved for the DTL funding in the fall of 2019 it made all the difference in having almost enough well functioning student laptops to make the transition to remote learning in March 2020. Without that DTL grant, we would have been completely unable to meet the needs of families, and instead we have been able to meet about 80% of the need."

"DTL Grant funds have been crucial in helping us have enough devices to be 1:1 with distance learning this year. The DTL Grant has also helped us to have the organizational capacity to use tools like Canvas (thank you UEN) and the Microsoft Office Suite (particularly Teams)... Our concern now is refreshing the devices in an effective and affordable way."

"Our participation in DTL for the past 3 years (continuing on) has been a HUGE help in ensuring we have enough technology to start this unique school year. Supply has been a minor challenge but since we had all spring to plan we did not encounter any major obstacles."

"DTL funding has been vital for our faculty to be able to teach remotely. Because of the grant we already used Canvas with students and had experience with online learning. Everyone having reliable internet connections is the biggest concern, it is creating a cavernous digital divide."

"We had operationalized 1:1 computers several years ago, but DTL funding was instrumental over the last several years in preparing teachers to teach remotely."

"We couldn't have done any of this successfully without the DTL grant program."

"DTL funds that were used for teacher training over the last 3 years was absolutely crucial in the preparation of my teachers to utilize and rely on blended learning strategies."

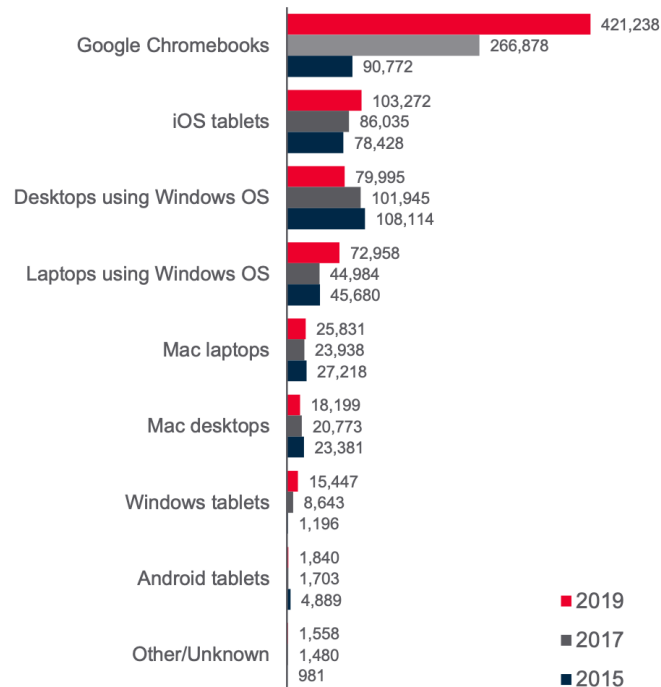


Availability of Devices

Although digital infrastructure varies in K-12 at the local level, a state landscape report from January 2020 indicated that Utah public schools have **access to more than 740k digital devices** (667k students in Utah). This is 200k more than in 2017.

Lesson Learned: *A statewide inventory was invaluable in identifying possible solutions at the state level (and local level)*

FIGURE 1
COMPUTING DEVICES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT USE IN UTAH SCHOOLS



Device Deployment

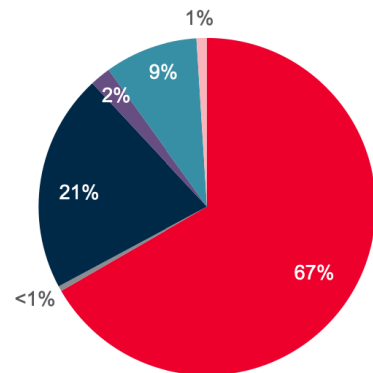
Mobile device deployment **policies vary across the state**. As of March 2020, most schools did not allow devices to be checked out for home use.

The investment in technology was at the school site, and with COVID-19 we shifted to learning at home.

Lesson Learned: *Many LEAs have now created new policies to address checking out devices*

FIGURE 3
MOBILE DEVICE DEPLOYMENT POLICIES IN UTAH SCHOOLS

- On a cart for in-classroom use only
- No school-owned mobile computing devices, but students are allowed to use their own personal mobile devices under a BYOD ("Bring Your Own Device") policy
- On a 1:1 basis (devices cannot be removed from school)
- Available for check-out from library, media center, or computer lab
- On a 1:1 basis (students can take the devices home at night)
- No mobile devices in school use



Internet Access

As of March 2020, we **did not have statewide data** to demonstrate the **availability of Internet access in homes**. We sent a survey to statewide tech leaders on March 8th to begin gathering data and worked with partners to create a “Digital Divide” resource document.

Lesson Learned: *Capturing a statewide view of Internet availability in homes should be part of our next inventory*

Statewide LMS

In 2018, Utah invested in a **statewide learning management system for all K-12 schools**. As of March 2020, 60% of LEAs were using it to some degree. This includes 40 out of 41 districts and ~50% of charter schools. The LMS provides access to coursework and learning materials that extend beyond the transitional classroom.

Lesson Learned: *This investment and the associated professional learning allowed teachers to transition in a matter of hours*

Weekend + two school days to “prepare”

March 13th Press Release: “Teachers have up to **two days to make plans to continue instruction**. Remote instruction will resume on Wednesday, March 18, at the latest, and may take many forms. Parents and students can expect more information from their school districts and charters.”

UEN Resources

Timely information for teachers, students, parents and caregivers to **help learning continue beyond face-to-face environments** was compiled by our partners at the Utah Education Network.

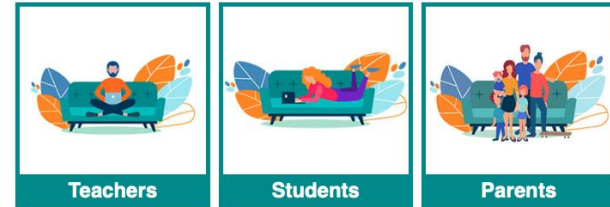
www.uen.org/learnathome

Lesson Learned: *A central place for all resources streamlined communication*

Learn @ Home



Timely information for teachers, students, parents and caregivers to help learning continue beyond face-to-face environments.



uen
UTAH EDUCATION NETWORK

Health @ Home Resources


Utah Telehealth Network



Existing State Contracts

Existing state partners worked together to begin offering additional licenses and support to students, teachers, and families.

Examples:

Early Interactive Reading Software Program

STEM Action Center Math Software Program

Lesson Learned: *Regular “provider meetings” helped build relationships*





Utah Education and Telehealth Network

Digital Divide

Over the past month, we have been working with state and national partners to help address the digital divide.

tinyurl.com/UTDigitalDivide

Lesson Learned: *These resources allowed local leaders to connect with the right people at the right time*

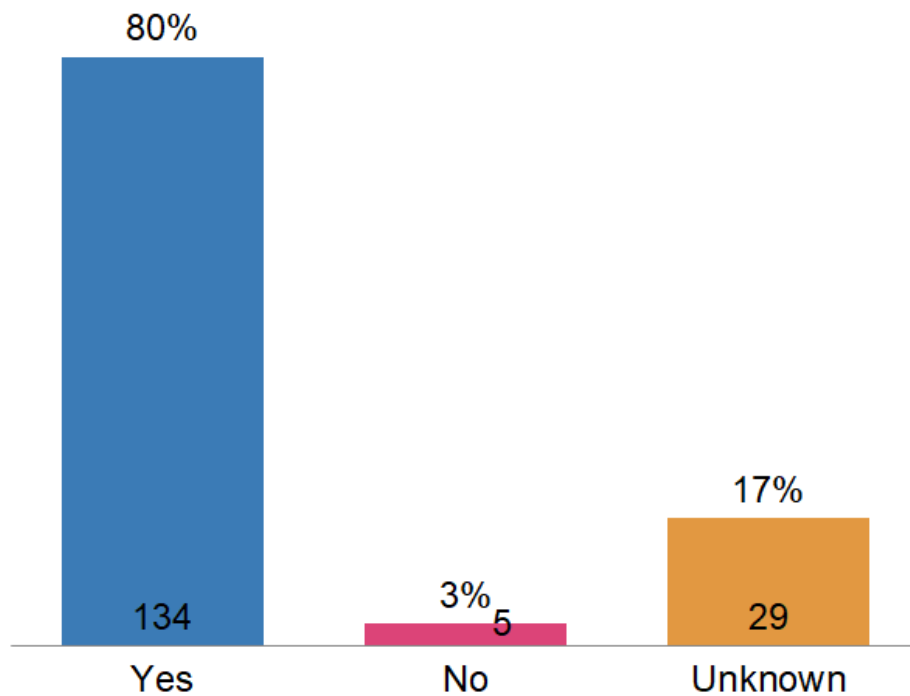
Statewide Connectivity and Learning Resources to Support Students During the Coronavirus Outbreak Compiled by the Utah Education and Telehealth Network

Broadband Service (In Alphabetical Order)

- **All West Communications** will not terminate any services because of customer's lack of ability to pay and will waive residential and small business late fees. This company has signed the FCC's Keep America Connected Pledge (see details below).
 - Service map found at <https://broadband.utah.gov/map/#/route/minDownSpeed=7&minUpSpeed=9&providers=All%20West&extent=-12456019|4806389|4622324>
- **AT&T** has said it will not terminate service based on the customer's ability to pay. It will waive late fees to residential and small businesses due to economic hardship. They have launched a link with updates at <https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html>
 - Service map found at <https://broadband.utah.gov/map/#/route/minDownSpeed=7&minUpSpeed=9&providers=AT%26T&extent=-12481701|4774591|4622324>
- **Beehive Broadband** pledges for the next 60 days not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic; and waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Service map found at <https://broadband.utah.gov/map/#/route/minDownSpeed=7&minUpSpeed=9&providers=Beehive&extent=-12456019|4806389|4622324>
- **Centracom** is offering free Internet service for households with K12 or college students that do not have internet. This offer is available until the end of the

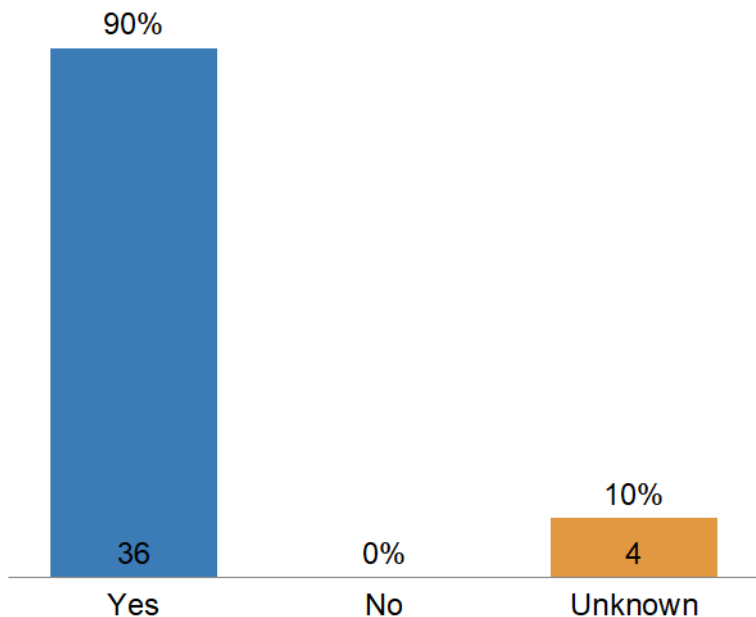


All LEAs: Computer Checkout Availability



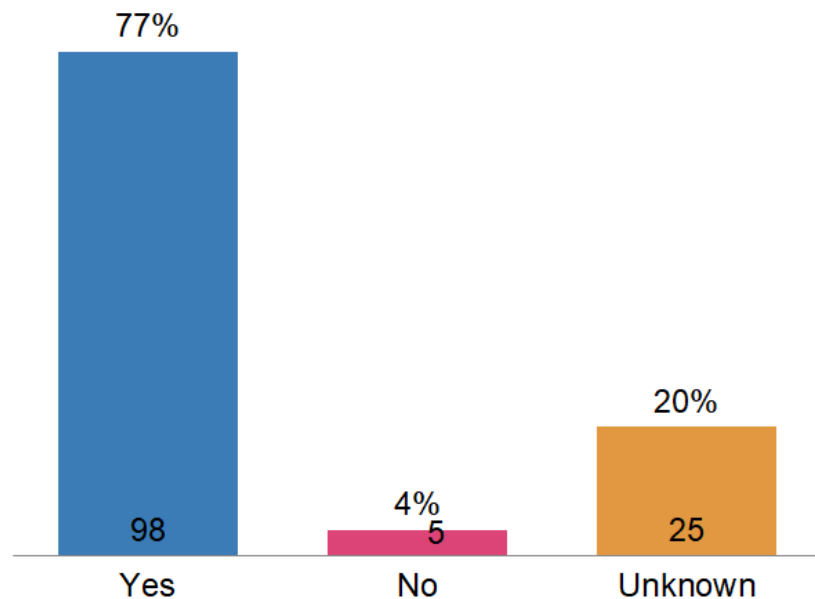
$N = 168$

School Districts: Computer Checkout Availability



N = 40

Charter Schools: Computer Checkout Availability



N = 128

